



## **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT : HFD Public Information, 713-495-7906

### **Embers from Charcoal Grill Spark 2-11 Fire**

Houston Fire Department Arson Investigators have ruled the cause of a two-alarm apartment fire at the Arlington Place Apartments, 116 E. Edgebrook on February 4, 2008, as accidental due to burning embers from a charcoal grill. The embers ignited wood shake shingles on the patio area of building 8 and spread to building 7.

HFD was dispatched to the fire just before 1 a.m. Monday morning and found fire coming from a 2-story apartment building. One firefighter injured his ankle and was transported to the hospital. There were no other reported injuries. The fire was tapped-out just before 2 a.m. , damaging at least 8 units.

The Houston Fire Department would like to remind citizens of some of the safety precautions to take when barbecuing.

There have been so many houses set of fire by barbecue pits that the Houston Fire Code addresses them. It states "Barbecue pits outside of buildings shall not be located within 10 feet of combustible walls, roofs, or other combustible material". You can be given a ticket for a fire code violation.

When starting your barbecue fire please use charcoal lighter, NOT gasoline.

Gasoline can flash violently in and around the pit causing serious injuries to anyone in the area of the flash.

It is a good idea to have a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose handy while the fire is going.

Check the pit frequently to insure that it is okay.

When the meal is over and you are cleaning up, please do not dump the coals in the trash can. Soak them in water before disposing of them.